



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Commissioner

April 27, 2005

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons

FROM: Richard C. Ten Eyck, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Programs and Assessment

SUBJECT: Statewide Test Administration Schedule for 2005-2006 School Year

VIA: County Superintendent on April 29, 2005

The attached Statewide Assessment Schedule lists New Jersey test administration dates for the 2005-2006 school year for grades 3, 4, 8, and high school (first-time eleventh graders, retained eleventh graders, twelfth graders, retained twelfth graders, returning students, and adult high school students).

As you will see, the schedule for the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK 3/4), the Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment (GEPA), and the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) reflects their usual places in the school calendar. However, in accordance with the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), New Jersey must also implement testing programs at grades 5, 6, and 7 in 2005-2006. The Request for Proposal for assessments in grades 5, 6, and 7 is due to be released shortly. As soon as the contract is awarded and testing dates are established for grades 5, 6, and 7, we will provide this schedule, along with further information.

All retained eleventh grade, twelfth grade, retained twelfth grade, returning students, and adult high school students who have not yet passed both sections of the HSPA must participate in the October and March administrations. First-time eleventh-grade students must participate in the March administration only, including the stand alone science field test.

Also, please note these special circumstances regarding the October HSPA administration:

If your district is open on a scheduled HSPA testing day during the regular or make-up week, you must administer the HSPA test section scheduled for that day. If your district is closed in observance of a religious holiday, an alternate testing day must be scheduled for the next available non-testing day. Therefore:

1. If your district is closed for Rosh Hashanah on Tuesday, October 4, administer regular Mathematics on Friday, October 7.
2. If your district is closed for Yom Kippur on Thursday, October 13, administer make-up Language Arts Literacy Day 2 on Friday, October 14.
3. If your district is closed for Rosh Hashanah on *both* Tuesday, October 4 *and* Wednesday, October 5, administer regular Mathematics on Friday, October 7 and Language Arts Literacy Day 1 on Monday, October 10 (if you are open) or Monday October 17 (if you are closed for Columbus Day on Monday, October 10).

If you have any questions regarding the October 2005 HSPA testing schedule, please contact Diane Kubinski in the Office of Evaluation and Assessment at (609) 292-3226.

The portfolio-based Alternate Proficiency Assessment (APA) for students with severe disabilities does not have formal test administration dates; please note, however, that, in keeping with federal requirements, the APA will now include students in grades 5, 6, and 7. For the 2005-2006 school year, the deadline for submitting APA student portfolios will be Wednesday, March 1, 2006.

As you can imagine, establishing testing dates requires us to balance a host of competing claims, concerns, and priorities. The department appreciates the feedback it receives regarding testing schedules. Please be sure to avoid scheduling in-service or field-trip events during the regular and make-up testing periods.

Finally, I want to remind you that, following the January – March 2005 National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP), the next round of NAEP testing mandated by NCLB will take place during the January – March 2007 period. However, NAEP will also be conducting national samplings during the 2005-2006 school year which may require the participation of some New Jersey districts. The Office of Evaluation and Assessment will update you accordingly, as we hear from the NAEP program office in Washington, D.C.

RCT/BDR/TP

Attachment

c: Members, State Board of Education
 Commissioner William L. Librera
 Dwight Pfennig
 J. Michael Rush
 Erika Leak
 Assistant Commissioners
 Brian D. Robinson
 Rochelle Hendricks
 Timothy Peters
 County Superintendents
 County Test Coordinators
 District Test Coordinators
 NJ LEE Group
 Garden State Coalition of Schools

STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE 2005-2006 SCHOOL YEAR

HIGH SCHOOL TESTING

OCTOBER 2005 ADMINISTRATION

High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA): for retained eleventh-graders, twelfth-graders, retained twelfth-graders, returning students, and adult high school students

October 4, 5, and 6, 2005	Regular Testing (Mathematics and Language Arts Literacy Days 1 and 2)
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October 11, 12, and 13, 2005	Make-up Testing (Mathematics and Language Arts Literacy Days 1 and 2)
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Alternate Schedule ONLY for students/districts observing Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur:

1. If your district is closed for Rosh Hashanah on Tuesday, October 4, administer regular Mathematics on Friday, October 7.
2. If your district is closed for Yom Kippur on Thursday, October 13, administer make-up Language Arts Literacy Day 2 on Friday, October 14.
3. If your district is closed for Rosh Hashanah on *both* Tuesday, October 4 *and* Wednesday, October 5, administer regular Mathematics on Friday, October 7 and Language Arts Literacy Day 1 on Monday, October 10 (if you are open) or Monday October 17 (if you are closed for Columbus Day on Monday, October 10).

MARCH 2006 ADMINISTRATION

High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA): for all first-time eleventh graders, retained eleventh graders, first-time twelfth graders, retained twelfth-graders, returning students, and adult high school students

March 7, 8, 9, 2006	Regular Testing (Mathematics, Language Arts Literacy Days 1 and 2)
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March 10, 2006	Science Field Test: for first-time 11th graders only
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March 14, 15, 16, 2006	HSPA Make-up Testing (Mathematics, Language Arts Literacy Days 1 and 2)
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GRADE EIGHT TESTING

Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment (GEPA): for all eighth-grade students

March 13, 14, 15, and 16, 2006	Regular Testing (Science, Mathematics, and Language Arts Literacy Days 1 and 2)
March 20, 21, 22, 23, 2006	Make-up Testing (Science, Mathematics, Language Arts Literacy Days 1 and 2)

GRADE FOUR TESTING

New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK4): for all fourth-grade students

March 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 2006	Regular Testing (Language Arts Literacy Days 1 and 2, Mathematics Days 1 and 2, Science)
March 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 2006	Make-up Testing (Language Arts Literacy Days 1 and 2, Mathematics Days 1 and 2, Science)

GRADE THREE TESTING

New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK3): for all third-grade students

March 20, 21, 22, 2006	Regular Testing (Language Arts Literacy Days 1 and 2, Mathematics)
March 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 2006	Make-up Testing (Language Arts Literacy Days 1 and 2, Mathematics)